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Summer 2012 Edition

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Don't Give Up the Ship!

History Ranger Academy 2012

BY LEISA GREATHOUSE



Campers assemble a 30 ft x42 ft Star Spangled Banner in Arsenal Park

"Don't give up the ship!" This famous rallying cry was just one piece of history that came from the War of 1812. The History Ranger Academy, the museum's summer camp, afforded its participants; children aged 9 to 12, an opportunity to commemorate the War of 1812 during its bicentennial year. In fact, the first day of camp, June 18, was the day the United States declared war on Great Britain.

Although referred to by many historians as America's second war of independence, it is the forgotten war. Yet 200 years ago, the man deemed to be arguably the best naval captain in history, North Carolinian Johnston Blakeley, ventured all the way to the English Channel in his ship the

USS *Wasp* and defeated the HMS *Reindeer*. The first lady of our country was Greensboro native Dolley Madison. Her presence of mind and courage saved a portrait of George Washington, important state papers, some silver, and other items as the British approached Washington DC and eventually burned the White House.

The campers learned about a woman named Mary Pickersgill, a Baltimore seamstress. It was Mary, along with her daughter Caroline, indentured servant Gracie Wisher, and others that sewed the 30 x 42 feet flag known as the Star Spangled Banner. This was the flag seen by Frances Scott Key that inspired his poem,

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It's Electrifying!

New Exhibit Opens July 14

On Saturday, July 14, the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex will open the exhibit *It's Electrifying!* This traveling exhibit from the North Carolina Museum of History highlights how the distribution of electric power changed lives throughout the state of North Carolina in the early twentieth century. As more homes and communities got power, the demand for electric appliances grew, which manufacturers promised would make housewives' chores easier. The exhibit illustrates this by contrasting pre-electric devices such as waffle irons, toasters, coffeepots, clocks, fans and irons with their electric-powered counterparts.

"Today, we have become accustomed to rapidly changing technology and how it affects our lives," noted David Reid, museum administrator. "Imagine less than a century ago, most North Carolinians lived without electricity." By 1905 electricity was commonplace in cities, but did not reach some rural communities until the 1940's.

A tour of the 1897 Poe House is a great accompaniment to this exhibit. There was no electricity on Haymount Hill when E.A. Poe built his home in 1897, as the original gaslight fixtures will attest. Downtown Fayetteville was electrified on Christmas Eve 1902, and electric power probably reached the Hill within a year or two of this date. The gaslight fixtures in the Poe House were converted to accommodate carbon filament light bulbs, and artifacts such as an electric fan and lamps also showcase the transition to electric power. The Poe House kitchen houses many pre-electric devices such as a waffle iron, a 1902 Glenwood stove, and an early refrigerator that emphasize the demanding workload of domestic servants and housewives prior to the availability of electric appliances.

It's Electrifying also highlights the advantages of electric lighting and the creation of distribution systems that made the electrification of the state possible. The exhibit will be on display through September 16, 2012.

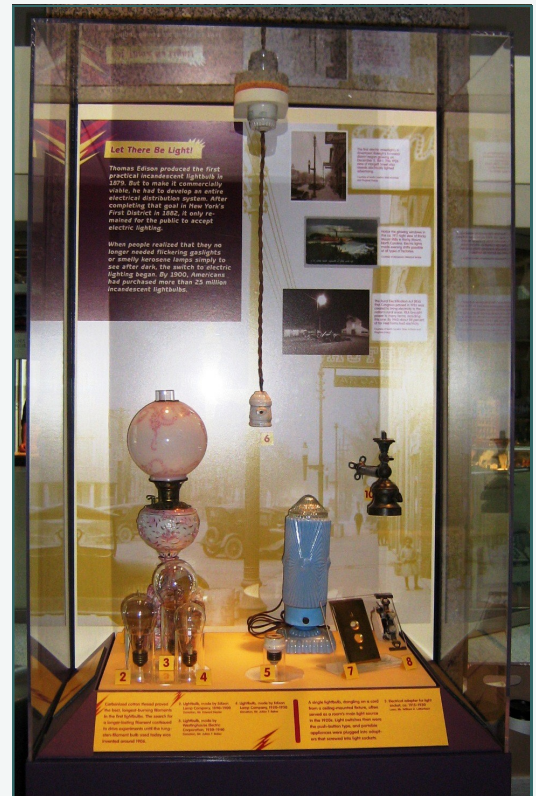
The next 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest takes place the same day of the exhibit opening. Bring the whole family and spend the day at the museum. It's all free!



Bottom Left: Pre-electricity waffle iron in Poe House kitchen.
Top Left: 1902 Glenwood wood/coal burning stove in the Poe House kitchen.
Above: Cast iron "Sad Iron" in the Poe House kitchen.



Right: A sneak peak at an exhibit case from *It's Electrifying!*



Internship Recap: Travelling Trunks Get Overhauled

BY MARANDA KEENEY

I had the wonderful opportunity to be an intern at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex for four weeks this summer. While interning at the museum, I experienced numerous things including giving tours, assisting with museum programs and events, meeting and interacting with tourists, and my primary objective: creating a user guide for the museum's traveling trunks.

The traveling trunks are intended for educational use in the classroom or during off site programs by museum staff. They contain 19th century reproduction clothing, accessories, and every day items. My goal was to create a user guide to go along with the trunks to assist with the demonstration process. The user guide includes a detailed item guide, discussion questions, activity sheets, project rubrics, and more. It was a fun experience creating this guide, and I truly think the trunks will be a success, contributing greatly to the museum's educational programming.

Interning at the museum was a wonderful learning experience. I acquired an abundance of knowledge that I will carry with me throughout my career. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to intern at a fascinating historical facility with such knowledgeable and helpful staff.

Maranda Keeney
Methodist University Senior



Top Right: A view of what can be found in a Travelling Trunk from the Museum of the Cape Fear. **Bottom:** Intern Maranda assists with watercolor painting at the June 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____



Membership

- ☐ Individual \$25
☐ Family/Patron \$100
☐ Benefactor \$500
☐ Sustainer \$1,000

Corporate Levels:

- ☐ Museum \$500
☐ Ghost Tower \$1,000
☐ Poe House \$2,500
☐ Arsenal Park \$5,000

**If you would like to make a contribution, please write in the amount here. \$* _____

Mail your tax-deductible check, payable to MCFHC, Inc., to Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 53784, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



Don't Give Up the Ship!

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"The Defense of Ft. McHenry," that became our national anthem in 1931.

A variety of activities made the week pass quickly. On Monday, Keri Gould from the Cliffdale Branch Library, in partnership with Cumberland Community Foundation's Community Resource program, introduced the summer reading program and led a Reader's Theater script, "The Star Spangled Banner." After the morning break, campers used rolls of red, white, and blue craft paper to roll out a full-size Star Spangled Banner measuring 30 x 42 feet in Arsenal Park. The stars were two feet in diameter and the stripes were two feet wide.

Tuesday began with a brief overview about the War of 1812, followed by a timeline activity whereby the campers drew pictures depicting such things as Dolley Madison saving George Washington's portrait, the bombing of Ft. McHenry, the USS *Wasp* in a sea battle with the HMS *Reindeer*, and Colonial Jackson taking a trip down the mighty Mississippi. The morning concluded with learning basic navigation skills using a compass and a quadrant they made.

Wednesday was perhaps the most enjoyable day. Six different activities made up our War of 1812 Carnival: paddleboat races, powder monkey relay, trivia corner, the proper way to fold a flag, Make Ready to Sail (loading a ship within its tonnage limits), and the game Ships in Battle where campers fired Nerf darts from a toy cannon toward a picture of a ship depicting the famous battle between the USS *Constitution* and the HMS *Guerriere*.

On Thursday and Friday, special guests Jim Goodwin and Donald VanHoy, demonstrated and taught their special skills of making ships in bottles and making monkey's fist and Turk's head knots, respectively. The camp wrapped up on Friday with a graduation ceremony and the campers received their History Ranger badges along with a prize bag. The term "prize" refers to the taking of ships, especially by privateers during the War of 1812. One of the most successful privateers was North Carolinian Otway Burns and his ship the Snapdragon.

Many thanks to Cumberland Community Foundation for supporting the History Ranger Academy with a grant, which provides for scholarships and defrays the cost of supplies and materials, allowing us to keep cost down.

Next year, the museum's summer camp will celebrate its 20th anniversary.



Top Right: Campers measure the height of the museum building using quadrants. Middle: War of 1812 Carnival, paddleboat races. Bottom: Reader's Theater, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Women Workers at the Fayetteville Arsenal

BY MEGAN MAXWELL

The contributions of ladies on the home front during the Civil War are widely documented by historians, newspaper accounts, letters, and diaries. As men joined the ranks of the Confederate forces, the women left behind immersed themselves in volunteerism by nursing the sick and wounded at newly established hospitals and providing clothing, blankets, and other homemade goods as fast as their fingers could work. They started Ladies Aid Societies, raised funds, and gathered together for sewing and quilting sessions, all in an effort to show their patriotism and support for the Southern cause. These were all proper activities in which the educated, wealthy, and respectable ladies of society could be engaged.

Seldom documented are the stories of laboring class women. These women were left alone to tend small farms and businesses and provide for their families and themselves without the benefit of an education or large bank account. Employment at the Fayetteville Arsenal as cartridge makers provided steady and reasonable income for young women and girls forced to find work to survive the war years. In the Governors Papers of Henry T. Clark at the NC State Archives, a payroll list for August 1861 shows 87 employees working at the Arsenal, including men, women, and slaves. The document indicates the length of time each employee has been working, their pay rate, and job description. Based on this information there were twenty-nine women and girls making cartridges at the Arsenal in August 1861 for forty to fifty cents per day. In mid July 1861, the *Fayetteville Observer* reported, "The Richmond Whig says that from 100 to 250 white women and girls are employed in one building in that city, making cartridges. We believe that 50 or 60 are similarly employed at the Arsenal here." This number is

slightly inflated based on the August 1861 payroll, but as the war dragged on, it is possible that the number of women and girls working at the Arsenal increased significantly to keep up production.

All of the workers listed as cartridge makers on the payroll are female, with the exception of James Davis and Henderson Lockaman. Davis is listed as the "Pyrotechnist Supervising Cartridge makers" with a pay of \$2.00 per day. Lockaman is listed as a laborer, "making and packing cartridges" for \$1.25 per day. Curiously, none of the female workers have been employed for longer than 14 days, and Davis is also listed as employed for only 14 days. This would suggest that the use of women workers for cartridge making had been established at the Fayetteville Arsenal for a mere two weeks by the end of August 1861, although NC militia took over the Arsenal in April 1861 and Governor Ellis signed over the Arsenal to the Confederacy in June 1861.

What is known about the women on the August 1861 roster has been gleaned from the 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Federal Censuses, as well

as N.C. marriage and death records. Records were found for twenty-one of the twenty-nine names on the roster, providing a general profile of these Arsenal workers. The average age of the female workers in August 1861 is twenty years old, and the youngest worker is Dicy Burkett, age 11. Dicy was only paid forty cents per day, while the majority of the other workers received fifty cents per day. Only four other girls were paid the forty cents wage, but it is unclear if the lower pay was entirely based on age because records were not found for all of these girls. The oldest female worker listed is Catherine Armstrong, age 36, who married Private George R. Hornrine of the NC 2nd Arsenal Guard Infantry in March 1867. A few of the other girls also married soldiers in the Arsenal Guard or had fathers who served in the guard. Since all but one of the women were single at this time, finding a husband may have been another motivation for employment at the Arsenal.

Working in a cartridge factory was extremely dangerous and potentially deadly. On September 17, 1862, an explosion rocked the Allegheny Arse-

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Filling Cartridges. Women working at the U.S. Arsenal, Watertown, Massachusetts. From Harper's Weekly, July, 1861. (Image: Library of Congress)



Arts Fest 2012

July 14 and August 11 11:00-4:00



Celebrate history, heritage and the arts at the Museum of the Cape Fear's annual 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest on July 14 and August 11, from 11am to 4pm. A variety of artists and craftspeople will set up shop on the grounds of the 1897 Poe House to display and sell local handmade crafts and creations. Visitors will also enjoy music, food, and face painting for the kids! Admission to the event is free, but come prepared to shop. "This is a great opportunity to support local artists and craftspeople, find unique gifts or to buy a custom handmade piece for yourself," says Megan Maxwell, 1897 Poe House Education Coordinator. "Make It, Take It" stations include weaving on a hand-held loom to make a bracelet or bookmark, making a hand-dipped beeswax candle, and painting a watercolor picture.

Concessions will be provided by "Big Ed's Creek Sauce and Catering" the best barbecue around, and Mike's Tropical Gourmet Icees. There is no fee to set up as a vendor or exhibitor, and the museum is still accepting vendor applications.

"The 2nd Saturdays events are an initiative by the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources to spur economic stimulus through the creative industry, such as cultural tourism and the arts," says Leisa Greathouse, Curator of Education at the museum. "Therefore, this is an opportunity for the public to see the wealth of culture and arts in the community and the artists and cultural vendors can find new audiences for their work," adds Greathouse.

Admission to the event is FREE!



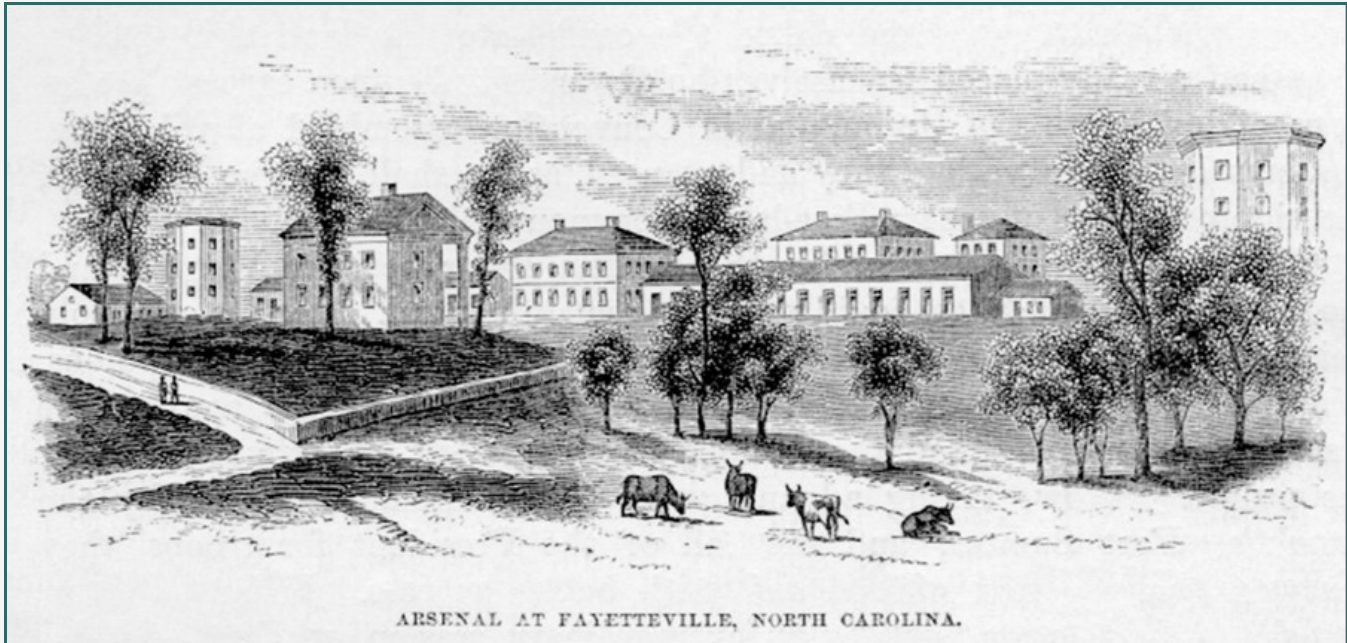
Scheduled Vendors

- Snickle and Fritz Pet Illustration**- Custom pet portraits
- The Basket Buddies**- Hand-woven baskets
- De~SIGNS by ShAnNon**- Hand-painted wood items, monogrammed wreaths, face painting
- Growing Stitches**- Quilts, potholders, wallets
- Cosette Clendenen**- Handmade custom clocks
- Lori Nieves**- Custom crochet items
- Baubles and Beads**- Beaded jewelry
- Sally's Beads**- Semi-precious gemstone, crystal, glass and wire jewelry
- Jazzy Girl**- Handmade jewelry/embellished denim totes/backpacks
- Trink's Store**- Custom jewelry
- American Red Cross**- Info table
- WizeEyez**- Unique crocheted items, jewelry
- Handmade Clay Creations by Gail Edmundson**- Stoneware and clay
- Yellow Wood Creations**- Natural handmade soap, body scrubs, lip balm, yarn wreaths
- Dreams of Destiny**- Handcrafted jewelry
- Sweet Gal Accessories**- Crochet crafts and more
- Trecie Williams**- Sketched portraits and landscapes
- Heather Zielinski**- Beaded and stainless steel jewelry
- Sadaya Jones**- Organic painting



Women at the Fayetteville Arsenal

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ARSENAL AT FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA.

Arsenal at Fayetteville, from Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial History of the Civil War 1866*, Volume I, page 386

nal near Pittsburg, PA and 78 people were killed, mostly women and girls. In March 1863 the Confederate Laboratory on Brown's Island, Richmond, VA, exploded, killing 40-50 women and girls. Twenty-one women and girls, mostly Irish immigrants, were killed by an explosion at the Washington Arsenal in June 1864. An article in the *Fayetteville Observer* from December 15, 1862, acknowledged the assistance of "the Fire Company at the Arsenal" in putting out a fire that broke out in the downtown area about one mile away from the Arsenal site. The existence of this fire company further emphasizes the dangers of working in the cartridge factories. Additional research may be done to discover when the Arsenal fire company was organized and if this was a common practice at other arsenals.

The stigma that factory work was beneath their social status and the dangers of the occupation were the major reasons that upper class women did not participate in cartridge manufacturing. However, there are references to ladies working as clerks at the Fayetteville Arsenal. From the *Richmond Whig*, October 26, 1864: "The Commandant of the S.C. Arsenal, at Fayetteville, N.C., has inaugurated the system of employing female clerks to do the work of men detailed for the purpose. Two of the young ladies of Fayetteville are now engaged as clerks at the arsenal." It is possible that as many as four young women were employed in this manner in early 1864, according to an account by local UDC member

Mrs. John H. Anderson from 1928, they included "Misses Campbell, Stedman, Taylor, and Ellison." Anderson declared that "the pay given these young ladies was black alpaca cloth, which was used in the arsenal for making cartridges. The alpaca, combined with scraps of colored silk, made the most beautiful dresses for the girls who, at the close of the war, could not procure new clothes." (John Oates, *The Story of Fayetteville*, pg 283.) Alpaca cloth was not used in making cartridges but was used to make gunpowder bags, which would have been readily on hand at the Arsenal. Payment in the form of fabric made working outside the home more palpable for these young women.

The Fayetteville Arsenal did produce weapons and accoutrements during the war; however, its greatest contribution was in the form of small arms ammunition. Records show that from January 1864 to August of that year, the arsenal produced 900,000 rounds of ammunition. This rate of production would not have been possible without the assistance of women and girls manufacturing cartridges. The value of their labor and sacrifice is immeasurable and deserves recognition. Through additional research their part in the story of the Fayetteville Arsenal can be told.

History Ranger Academy 2012





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Visit us on the web at:

museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5

Sunday 1-5

1897 Poe House Tours

Tues-Fri 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

Saturday on the hour, first tour at 10:00, last tour at 4:00.

Sunday on the hour, first tour at 1:00, last tour at 4:00.

Museum Staff

David Reid
Administrator

Karen Wallace
Administrative
Assistant

Leisa Greathouse
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell
1897 Poe House
Education Coordinator

Jim Frederickson
Carpenter

Weekend Staff
Cynthia Gates
Louise White
Brittany Merchant

And more than 50
volunteers

Experience life in the past lane....

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is free.

Upcoming Events

All Events are Free!

August

August 11: 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest

Details page 6, 11:00-4:00

September

September 8: Festival of Yesteryear

Focusing on the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods, this program features re-enactors demonstrating various aspects of daily life including blacksmithing, woodworking, music, toys and games, and militia drills. Living history groups include Camp Flintlock, the North Carolina Highland Regiment, and Captain Dry's Company, hailing from the colonial Port of Brunswick, the group portrays townspeople who were members of the Militia Company in the period 1745 - 1766. Be sure to visit Apprentice Alley, where children can participate and learn a variety of trades through hands on crafts and activities including making a colonial hat, stenciling, and candle dipping. This event is held annually the Saturday after Labor Day and in partnership with the Lafayette Society's Birthday in the Park, honoring Revolutionary War hero marquis de Lafayette. 10:00-5:00. FREE For more on Lafayette's Birthday Celebration visit <http://www.lafayettesociety.org/events.php>

October

October 19-20 & 25-27 Hallowe'en Revels

"Hallowe'en's the night for revels, join the fun!" The Museum of the Cape Fear has partnered with the actors of the Gilbert Theater to bring the 1897 Poe House to life after dark. Halloween themed tours of the house will take place the evening of October 19-20 and 25-27, with actors portraying members of the Poe household and their friends as they prepare for a night of Hallowe'en revels. The cost is free, but tour space will be limited. Tour times to be announced.

October 27: Poe House Trick or Treat

The annual 1897 Poe House Trick or Treat features a costume contest, scavenger hunt, and traditional Victorian carnival games for the kids. 1:00-5:00

For more upcoming special events visit our website or "like" us on Facebook!

Mommy, Me, & the Museum Make Three

Mommy, Me, & the Museum Make Three programs are offered the 2nd Tuesday of every month and include a story and hands on craft. The program theme is different each month. Call for details. Ages 3-5 yrs with adult. FREE but pre-registration required.

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.